

**REMARKS**

The drawings are objected to by the Examiner for the reasons noted in the official action, e.g., the failure to show the features of claim 22 in the drawings. All of the raised drawing objections are believed to be overcome by amended Fig. 2 which now diagrammatically shows the grooves of claim 22. If any further amendment to the drawings of this application is believed necessary, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative of the Applicant to discuss the same.

The above newly entered/amended paragraphs of the specification overcome some informalities noted in the specification on file. The undersigned avers that the newly entered/amended paragraphs of the specification do not contain any new subject matter.

Next, claims 17-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for the reasons noted in the official action. The rejected claims are accordingly amended, by the above claim amendments, and the presently pending claims are now believed to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention, thereby overcoming all of the raised § 112, second paragraph, rejections. The entered claim amendments are directed solely at overcoming the raised indefiniteness rejection(s) and are not directed at distinguishing the present invention from the art of record in this case.

Lastly, claims 17-26 and 28-33 are rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 102, as being anticipated in view of Hill '863, Lysholm et al. '684 or Briski '262 while claims 17-26 are rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 103, as being unpatentable in view of Lysholm et al. '684, Hill '863, Allen et al. '417, Merritt et al. '253, Fujioika '242, Moorman et al. '314 and/or Holbrook et al. '620. The Applicant acknowledges and respectfully traverses all of the raised anticipatory and obviousness rejections in view of the following remarks.

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claim 27 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim(s). In accordance

with this indication, the subject matter of claim 27, including the subject matter of claim 25, is incorporated into independent claim 17 and that independent claim is now believed to be allowable. As claims 18-24, 26 and 28-33 all depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claim 17, those dependent claims are believed to be allowable as well.

In addition, new independent claim 33 is entered in this application and this independent claim parallels the subject matter of claim 17 except that new independent claim 33 only includes the subject matter of claim 27, which was indicated as being allowable, but does not include the additional subject matter of claim 25. Claim 33 is believed allowable for the same reasons as claim 17 is allowable.

If any further amendment to this application is believed necessary to advance prosecution and place this case in allowable form, the Examiner is courteously solicited to contact the undersigned representative of the Applicant to discuss the same.

In view of the above claim amendments, the Applicant respectfully submits that further comments concerning the applied prior art is not believed necessary. The Applicant also notes the remaining prior art cited in the official action. As none of that additional art is applied by the Examiner against the claims of this application, the Applicant is not providing any comments concerning that art as well.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the raised rejection(s) should be withdrawn at this time. If the Examiner disagrees with the Applicant's view concerning the withdrawal of the outstanding rejection(s) or applicability of the Hill '863, Lysholm et al. '684, Briski '262, Allen et al. '417, Merritt et al. '253, Fujioika '242, Moorman et al. '314 and/or Holbrook et al. '620 references, the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to indicate the specific passage or passages, or the drawing or drawings, which contain the necessary teaching, suggestion and/or disclosure required by case law. As such teaching, suggestion and/or disclosure is not present in the applied references, the raised rejection should be withdrawn at this time. Alternatively, if the Examiner is relying on his/her

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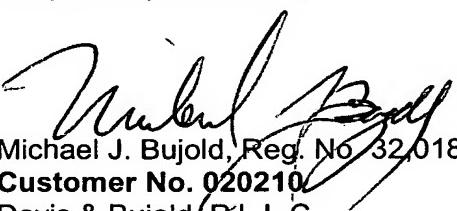
expertise in this field, the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to enter an affidavit substantiating the Examiner's position so that suitable contradictory evidence can be entered in this case by the Applicant.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the raised rejection(s) should be withdrawn and this application is now placed in a condition for allowance. Action to that end, in the form of an early Notice of Allowance, is courteously solicited by the Applicant at this time.

The Applicant respectfully requests that any outstanding objection(s) or requirement(s), as to the form of this application, be held in abeyance until allowable subject matter is indicated for this case.

In the event that there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge the same or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account (Account No. 04-0213).

Respectfully submitted,



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